

GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS 2010



My Fellow Marylander:

Service to others is an important part of our state's history, from the first standing militia in 1633 to our modern-day heroes who act selflessly to improve the quality of life for all Marylanders. Our legacy of civil service remains stronger than ever as Marylanders of all backgrounds continue to give time and energy to serve a purpose greater than themselves.

Each year we ask the citizens of our state to nominate a group or individual who have demonstrated commitment and dedication to our community-based organizations, churches, and schools. The selected recipients will be awarded at the annual Governor's Volunteer Service Awards celebration during National Volunteer Week in April. These extraordinary people deserve to be honored because there is no such thing as a spare Marylander.



As we continue to reduce state spending to navigate through the national recession, the need for community organizations and volunteers across our state is ever increasing. It is more important than ever that Marylanders dedicate their time to addressing the needs of children, families and vulnerable adults in our State. Katie and I strongly encourage you to take the time to nominate a volunteer group or individual that merits this special recognition.

Sincerely,


Governor


First Lady

THE 2010 AWARDS

The Governor's Volunteer Service Awards are presented by the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GOSV) each year. These awards recognize significant contributions of Maryland citizens to the life and health of the State and its people. The awards are presented during National Volunteer Week, April 18 – 24, 2010.

Nominations for the 2010 Governor's Volunteer Service Awards are now being accepted. All nominations must be postmarked or submitted via email no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, March 1, 2010. Download the application at www.gosv.state.md.us.

ELIGIBILITY

Any individual or volunteer group that has demonstrated commitment and dedication to our State through significant volunteer service can be nominated. Here are the eligibility guidelines:

- Nominations must represent outstanding volunteer service during 2009.
- The nominated service must benefit Maryland citizens and have a positive influence that addresses a community problem or enhances the quality of life in Maryland.
- For individual nominations, the nominated service must be performed outside the context of a nominee's paid employment.
- Recipients of the Governor's Volunteer Service Award recipients since 2005 may not be nominated again.
- Organizations or groups must have been operational for two years to be eligible to be nominated.

THE NOMINATION PROCESS

Each nomination must include contact information for the nominee and nominator, the selected award category (only one per nomination), and the nomination narrative. The award categories are listed below along with information to be included in the nomination narrative. The nomination form is a Word Form; enter data in each line and save the document as the full name of the nominee followed by 2010 Service Award Nomination (e.g. Jake Smith 2010 Service Award Nomination). Download the nomination form at www.gosv.state.md.us.

A completed nomination form must be postmarked or submitted via email to jhegarty@gosv.state.md.us no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, March 1, 2010. Please use only one method of submission (postal mail or email). The address for postal delivery is:

Jeanne Hegarty
Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism
301 West Preston Street – 15th Floor
Baltimore MD 21201

The nomination form must be typed; no handwritten nominations will be accepted. No more than three nominations will be accepted from any individual nominator. Nominators are expected to notify the individual or group they wish to nominate before submitting their nomination for consideration. Nominators will receive a receipt confirmation via email.

THE AWARD CATEGORIES

The Governor's Office will recognize outstanding volunteer service in these categories in 2010:

Individual Service

Youth (18 and under)
Adult
Senior (55 and over)
Lifetime Achievement
National Service Participant

Organizational/Program Volunteer Service

For Profit/Business
Faith Based Organization
Nonprofit (501c3) Organization
Youth Group
Adult Group
Senior Group

For each nomination, please provide all of the information below in a 500-word narrative:

1. Brief overview of the nominee (biographical information for individuals and organizational data for groups).
2. When did the nominee begin volunteering?
3. What motivated the nominee to volunteer?
4. Quantitative data citing number of hours served, number of people served, funds raised, etc. that shows what the nominee accomplished and the role volunteers played.
5. Qualitative information such as good stories, quotes from people served, and other demonstrations of service that cannot be easily measured.

Please note that information provided in the nomination forms will be used for promotional purposes. The GOSV will publish summaries of the nominations for each recipient on the web site, in the Award Ceremony program, and include it in press releases during National Volunteer Week, April 18 – 24, 2010.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominations will be reviewed by a panel of community leaders, volunteers, and staff. Recipients of the Governor's Volunteer Service Awards must exemplify the following characteristics:

- Demonstrate sustained commitment to meeting Maryland's most pressing human and/or environmental community needs;
- Engage in meaningful service that makes a measurable difference in the community;
- Represent extraordinary acts of generosity and kindness; and
- Have an impact on the greater community.

REVIEW AND NOTIFICATION PROCESS

Each nomination will be reviewed by a panel of community leaders, volunteers, and staff of the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism. Nominations will be scored and ranked, based on the eligibility guidelines and selection criteria above, and the panel will recommend recipients to the Governor's Office. The Governor's Office will announce the recipients in a press release in early April, and the GOSV will notify each recipient of his/her selection. All nominators, nominees, and recipients will be invited to attend the Award Ceremony and Reception in Annapolis during National Volunteer Week, April 18 – 24, 2010.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Jeanne Hegarty, Special Projects Coordinator at the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism. Jeanne can be reached at 410-767-1821 or at jhegarty@gosv.state.md.us.